



DJ Hilson

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Muskegon County Prosecutor

990 Terrace, Fifth Floor
Muskegon, MI 49442
231-724-6435

Safe Days and Quiet Nights

“Operation Graduation”

Step 1: Send Letter #1 to parents once the child has missed 5 days of school AND absences are interfering with education. Keep a copy of this letter for your records only. Proceed to step 2 if attendance continues to be a problem.

Step 2: Send Letter #2 to set up a meeting to personally meet regarding attendance problem. This letter should be sent out **BEFORE** the student has 10 absences. This meeting may include DHS or any other providers. Referral to Family Resource Center should be evaluated at this meeting. E-mail a copy of Letter #2 to the prosecutor’s office by sending it as an attachment to maatti@co.muskegon.mi.us and riedlal@co.muskegon.mi.us. Also send copy of letter to DHS. A letter from our office will be sent to the parent urging them to meet with the school and work to remedy the problem to avoid additional consequences. Proceed to step 3 if attendance continues to be a problem or the parents fail to attend the meeting at the school.

Step 3: Send Prosecutor Referral form along with the following attachments:

1. Attendance records of student.
2. Copy of 1st letter to parents.

Send referral form and attachments by e-mailing them to maatti@co.muskegon.mi.us and riedlal@co.muskegon.mi.us or faxing the form to 724-6685.

Our office will then set up a time to meet with the parents (and child when appropriate) and offer a contract to avoid prosecution. A copy of this contract will be provided to the school.

Step 4: If attendance continues to be a problem, notify the prosecutor’s office by e-mail. Criminal charges will be immediately filed against the parents (when appropriate) and/or delinquency charges against the juvenile (when appropriate).

Repeat Offenders: For families that have been through the above steps, a referral for prosecution can be made immediately.

Part 1: Operation Graduation

Goal: Significantly reduce truancy and provide educational opportunities to the youth of our community

- Chronically truant kids and their parents are offered an opportunity to avoid prosecution in exchange for assistance to remedy truant behavior.
- Step 1: Schools send out letters to parents of students that have 5 days of unexcused absences.
- Step 2: Schools meet with the parents and child.
- Step 3: Prosecutor meets with parents and/or child and offers a contract to avoid prosecution.

Prosecutor Contract

- Allows parents and kids to work with the family resource centers; or
- Allows parents and kids to work with trained mediators as Mediation and Restorative Justice;
- Requires attendance and the child to be involved in a positive activity including:
 - 8 week MCC Leadership Training Program (Ages 14-18)
 - Men and Women of Honor Mentor Program (Ages 11-14)
 - List of 32 free or nearly free youth sponsored activities.

Results:

- County Wide Implementation: January 1, 2013.

School Year 2012/2013:	2094
School Year 2013/2014:	1258

- The reduction from a year ago is an astounding *39.9% decrease.*

Comparison from 2012 until Today's
date

- 2611 Chronic Truants in 2012.

- 1258 Chronic Truants in 2014.

- **Results: 51.8% Reduction**